

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The current listing of the claims replaces all previous amendments and listings of the claims.

1.-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A container, comprising:

a container body configured to hold toner; and

a mouthpiece configured to deliver toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including,

a circular outlet, and

engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet, wherein the circular outlet is positioned at a center location between the engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with guide members provided at a setting portion on which the container is to be mounted, and the engagement openings are configured to indicate a type of the toner held by the container body.

30. (Previously Presented) The container according to Claim 29, wherein the container body includes a container opening to which the mouthpiece is attachable.

31. and 32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a main body including a plurality of setting portions; and

a plurality of containers each arranged to be mounted to a corresponding setting portion of the plurality of setting portions, each of the containers including,

a container body configured to hold toner of a color different from colors of toner stored in container bodies of others of the plurality of containers; and

a mouthpiece configured to deliver toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including,

a circular outlet, and

engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet, wherein, for each container, the circular outlet is positioned at a center location between the positions of the engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with guide members provided at the setting portion on which the corresponding container is to be mounted, and a position of the container in the image forming apparatus is based on compatibility between the engagement openings of the mouthpiece and the guide members provided at the corresponding setting portion.

34. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 29, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

35. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 34, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

36. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 29, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates the type of the toner held by the container body.

37. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 29, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the circular outlet.

38. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

39. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 38, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

40. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates a type of the toner held by the container body.

41. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the circular outlet.

42. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the container body includes a container opening to which the mouthpiece is attachable.

43. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the engagement openings are configured to indicate a type of the toner held by the container body.

44. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the toner held by the container body.

45. (Previously Presented) A toner container, comprising:
a container body configured to hold toner; and
a mouthpiece configured to deliver toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including,

a circular outlet, and
means for receiving guide protrusions provided at a setting portion on which the container is to be mounted, the means for receiving being located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet, the circular outlet being positioned at a center location between the positions of the means for receiving, and the means for receiving indicating a type of the toner held by the container body.

46. (Previously Presented) The toner container of claim 45, wherein the means for receiving is positioned on opposite sides of a center axis of the circular outlet.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 45, wherein the means for receiving is positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the toner held by the container body.

49. (Previously Presented) A method for handling a toner container, the toner container including a container body storing toner and a mouthpiece configured to deliver the toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including a circular outlet and engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet and the engagement openings being configured to indicate a type of the toner held by the container body, the method comprising:

mounting, based on a configuration of the engagement openings, the toner container at a setting portion of an image forming apparatus by inserting guide members provided at the setting portion into the engagement openings; and

transferring the toner from the container body through the circular outlet.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein:

the engagement openings include two apertures, and

the mounting further comprises:

mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two apertures.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein:

the engagement openings include two curved apertures, and

the mounting further comprises:

mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two curved apertures.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein:

a width of one of the engagement openings corresponds to the type of the toner held by the container body, and

the mounting further comprises:

mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on the width of one of the engagement openings.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein:

the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the circular outlet, and

the mounting further comprises:

mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two openings.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein:

the mouthpiece is attached to a container opening of the container body.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein:

the engagement openings are positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the toner held by the container body, and

the mounting further comprises:

mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on a position of the engagement openings about the circular outlet.

57. (Previously Presented) A toner container, comprising:

a container body configured to hold toner;

a toner outlet configured to deliver the toner from the container body; and

engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the toner outlet, wherein the toner outlet is positioned at a substantially central location between the

engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with guide members provided at a setting portion on which the container is to be mounted, and the engagement openings are configured to indicate a toner type held by the container body.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a main body including a plurality of setting portions, each setting portion have corresponding guide members; and

a plurality of containers each configured to be mounted to a corresponding setting portion of the plurality of setting portions, each of the containers further comprising:

a container body configured to hold toner ~~of a color different from colors of toner stored in the other containers of the plurality of containers~~;

a toner outlet configured to deliver toner from the container body; and

engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the toner outlet, wherein, for each container, the toner outlet is positioned at a substantially central location between the positions of the engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with the guide members provided at the setting portion on which the corresponding container is to be mounted, and a position of the container in the image forming apparatus is based on compatibility between the engagement openings and the guide members provided at the corresponding setting portion.

60. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 57, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

61. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 60, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

62. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 57, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates the toner type held by the container body.

63. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 57, wherein the engagement openings include two openings which are positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the toner outlet.

64. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

65. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 64, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

66. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates a toner type held by the container body.

67. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein the engagement openings include two openings which are positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the toner outlet.

68. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein the engagement openings are configured to indicate a toner type held by the container body.

69. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 68, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the toner outlet according to the toner type held by the container body.

70.-72. (Canceled)

73. (Previously Presented) A method for handling a toner container including a container body, an outlet to deliver a toner stored in the container body, and engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the outlet, the engagement openings being configured to indicate a toner type held by the container body, the method comprising:

mounting, based on a configuration of the engagement opening, the toner container at a setting portion of an image forming apparatus by inserting guide members provided at the setting portion into the engagement openings; and

transferring the toner from the container body through the outlet.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two apertures.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings include two curved apertures, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two curved apertures.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein a width of one of the engagement openings corresponds to the type of the toner held by the container body, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on the width of one of the engagement openings.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the outlet, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two openings.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the outlet according to the toner type held by the container body, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on a position of the engagement openings about the outlet.

79. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 29, further comprising:
the toner ~~held~~ disposed in the container body.

80. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising:

the toner held disposed in the container body.

81. (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 45, further comprising:

the toner held disposed in the container body.

82. (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 57, further comprising:

the toner held disposed in the container, ~~wherein the engagement openings indicate the type of toner held in the container body.~~

83. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 57, further comprising:

a mouthpiece.

84. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 59, further comprising:

the toner held disposed in the container body.

85. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 59, further comprising:

a mouthpiece.

86. and 87. (Canceled)

88. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 57, wherein cross sections of the engagement openings are arc-shaped and widths along a radial direction of the cross sections or azimuthal positions of the engagement openings about the toner outlet indicate the toner type held by the container.

89. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 59, wherein cross sections of the engagement openings are arc-shaped and widths along a radial direction of the cross sections or azimuthal positions of the engagement openings about the toner outlet indicate the toner type held by the container.

90. (Currently Amended) ~~The A toner container according to claim 70, comprising:~~
a container body configured to hold toner;
a toner outlet configured to deliver toner from the container body; and
means for engaging the toner container with a setting portion on which the container
is to be mounted according to a toner type held by the container body,
wherein the means for engaging comprises engagement openings having arc-shaped cross sections or widths along a radial direction of the cross sections and azimuthal positions of the engagement openings about the toner outlet indicate the toner type held by the container.

91. (New): The container according to claim 83, wherein the mouthpiece includes the engagement openings.

92. (New): The container according to claim 57, further comprising:
a bag, internal to the container body, which stores the toner.

93. (New): The container according to claim 57, further comprising:
a valve configured to seal toner from flowing through the toner outlet.

94. (New): The container according to claim 93, wherein the valve comprises:

a coil spring arranged to be compressed in a vertical direction, when the toner outlet is facing in a downward direction; and

a sealing structure, urged by the coil spring towards the toner outlet, which seals the container.

95. (New): The container according to claim 94, wherein the sealing structure has a circular cross-sectional shape.

96. (New): The container according to claim 95, wherein the coil spring is urged at a top portion thereof, when the toner outlet faces downwardly, towards the toner outlet by a structure which is mounted at a bottom portion of the container.

97. (New): The container according to claim 95, wherein the sealing structure comprises a valve body.

98. (New): The container according to claim 96, further comprising:

a valve seat which mates with the valve body when the toner outlet is sealed.